

Message Text

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SUBJ: ADDERLEY INTERVIEW: FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS AN EDITED VERSION OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY DURING WEEK OF JAN. 5 TO AN UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER OF THE MIAMI HERALD. INTERVIEW APPEARED IN SUNDAY, JAN. 11 EDITION OF THE HERALD. FOR CONVENIENCE AND REFERENCE PURPOSES, INTERVIEW HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO THREE PARTS AND THE PORTION ON FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS IS REPEATED BELOW. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.

Q. THERE WAS TALK IN 1973, THE YEAR THE BAHAMAS GAINED INDEPENDENCE, OF REACHING SOME SORT OF LEASE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE U.S. REGARDING U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE BAHAMAS. HERE IT IS TWO YEARS LATER AND WE STILL HAVE NO AGREEMENT. IS THERE A PROBLEM? WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO REACH AGREEMENT?

A. I WOULDN'T PUT IT AS A PROBLEM. THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT PROVIDED WE CAN AGREE. I'D BETTER NOT GIVE YOU ANOTHER DATE NOW, HUH. IF YOU HAD ASKED ME IN 1974 I WOULD HAVE SAID THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT IN 1974. IF YOU HAD ASKED ME IN 1975, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU 1975.

Q. THE PRIME MINISTER (LYNDEN PINDLING) SAID IN NOVEMBER THAT THE RENTAL FOR THE BASES MIGHT BE AS MUCH AS DOLS 25 MILLION ANNUALLY. IS THAT RIGHT?

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A. I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER SAID THAT. TWENTY-FIVE MILLION

DOLLARS WAS A FIGURE THAT I SAW AND THOUGHT MAY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH AN UNNAMED SOURCE IN THE U.S. STATE DEPT. THAT WAS BACK IN 1973 AND THAT'S THE ONLY TIME I'D EVER SEEN IT. THE PRIME MINISTER NEVER USED IT.

Q. IS THERE A FIGURE?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FIGURES WHICH WE USED, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE FIGURES.

Q. ARE TALKS GOING ON NOW OR HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS?

A. EXCHANGES, BUT NOT FORMAL DISCUSSIONS. THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE 1973 IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

Q. YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF THERE MAY BE SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AT THE MOMENT OVER THE BASES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NASSAU?

A. WELL, THERE ARE NOT ANY MORE DIFFERENCES NOW THAN THERE WERE A YEAR AGO OR MAYBE TWO YEARS AGO. BUT FOR THERE TO BE AN AGREEMENT, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE ON BOTH SIDES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE KIND OF CONSIDERATIONS UNDER WHICH THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO ALLOW THE FACILITIES TO REMAIN. THIS IS THE CRUX OF WHAT WE REALLY ARE HAVING TO TALK ABOUT...FINDING THE BASIS ON WHICH WE CAN AGREE ON A FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE BASES.

Q. SO THE BASIC ISSUE IS A RENTAL FEE?

A. I WOULDN'T PUT IT AS SIMPLY AS A RENTAL FEE. I'D SAY THE CONSIDERATIONS ARE FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, FINANCIAL IN A FEE SENSE OR FINANCIAL IN AN ECONOMIC SENSE.

Q. DO YOU FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF YOU CAN'T AGREE ON A FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE ASKED TO LEAVE THOSE INSTALLATIONS?

A. YES, THAT'S A POSSIBILITY.

Q. HOW STRONG A POSSIBILITY?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THAT. THAT DEPENDS ON HOW REASONABLE THE UNITED STATES IS.

Q. AFTER TWO YEARS OF PATIENCE, HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU HAVE? OH, A LOT. A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT. ORIENTAL PATIENCE ON THIS. WEISS

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